

## MAINTAIN THE DOCTOR!

Dr. and Mrs. Rutter and Nurses Merle Farland and Joy Whitehouse have arrived in the Solomons to re-establish the Medical Unit at Bilua.

Will you help by raising your annual subscription to Foreign Missions or by a special gift to maintain them in this Christ-like work? You will thus help to make the Bi-Centenary Year memorable in the Solomons.

## MAINTAIN THE DOCTOR!

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British Solomon Island New Pictorial Issue.



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Methodist Foreign Missionary  
Society

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The Parsonage,  
Dannevirke,  
New Zealand.

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Bougainville,  
TERRITORY OF NEW GUINEA.

(Please use N.Z. Air Mail Stamps on all letters.)

# The Open Door

The Missionary Organ  
of the  
Methodist Church  
of N.Z.

DECEMBER, 1938.



Margaret Too, Bilua, aged 15 months. Adopted, when 5 days' old and motherless, by Sister Edna White. (See page 14).

"A Great Door & Effectual is opened unto us"

ST. PAUL.

THE OPEN DOOR.

Names and Postal Addresses of Missionaries, Missionary Sisters and Lay Missionaries.

SOLOMON ISLANDS MISSION DISTRICT.

MISSIONARIES.

Rev. J. F. GOLDIE .. .. .	Roviana, British Solomon Islands.
Rev. J. R. METCALFE .. .. .	Choiseul, via Gizo, British Solomon Islands.
Rev. A. H. CROPP .. .. .	Buka Passage, Bougainville, Mandated Territory of New Guinea.
Rev. A. H. VOYCE .. .. .	Kieta, Bougainville, Mandated Territory of New Guinea.
Rev. E. C. LEADLEY .. .. .	Roviana, British Solomon Islands.
Rev. A. W. E. SILVESTER .. .. .	Gizo, British Solomon Islands.
Rev. D. C. ALLEY .. .. .	Teop, via Buka Passage, Bougainville, Mandated Territory of New Guinea.

MISSIONARY DOCTOR.

Dr. A. G. RUTTER .. .. .	Gizo, British Solomon Islands.
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MISSIONARY SISTERS.

Sister ETHEL McMILLAN .. .. .	Gizo, British Solomon Islands.
Sister ELIZABETH COMMON .. .. .	Buka Passage, Bougainville, Mandated Territory of New Guinea.
Sister LINA Jones .. .. .	Roviana, British Solomon Islands.
Sister ADA LEE .. .. .	Kieta, Bougainville, Mandated Territory of New Guinea.
Sister VERA CANNON .. .. .	Roviana, British Solomon Islands.
Sister EFFIE HARKNESS .. .. .	Roviana, British Solomon Islands.
Sister MERLE FARLAND .. .. .	Gizo, British Solomon Islands.
Sister JOY WHITEHOUSE .. .. .	Gizo, British Solomon Islands.

NATIVE MISSIONARIES.

Rev. NAPATALI FOTU .. .. .	Simbo, Roviana, British Solomon Islands.
Rev. PAULA HAVEA .. .. .	Roviana, British Solomon Islands.
Rev. ERONI KOTOSOMA .. .. .	Tiop, Bougainville, Mandated Territory of New Guinea.
Rev. USAIA SOTUTU .. .. .	Buka Passage, Bougainville, Mandated Territory of New Guinea.
Rev. BELSHAZZAR GINA .. .. .	Roviana, British Solomon Islands.
Rev. NATHAN KERA .. .. .	Bambatana, Choiseul, via Faisi, Solomon Islands.
Rev. JIONI AFU .. .. .	Roviana, British Solomon Islands.

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Editor: Rev. A. H. SCRIVIN,  
Probert Chambers,  
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THE OPEN DOOR

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The Missionary Organ of  
the Methodist Church of  
New Zealand.

VOL. XVII., No. 3.

DECEMBER, 1938.

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY

MADRAS. *1938 World Mission Conf*

The eyes of the Christian world will be upon Madras during this month of December. A World Missionary Conference is gathered there at the call of the International Missionary Council.

Cecil Northcroft, Home Secretary and Literary Superintendent of the London Missionary Society, in his striking little book, "Who Claims the World?" says:—

"In recent years Christianity has held world meetings in order to survey its great tasks. These meetings began at Edinburgh in 1910. Out of that meeting the International Missionary Council grew. There was another meeting at Jerusalem in 1928. The 1938 meeting is at Madras. These meetings are different from League of Nations' Assemblies, or other International Conferences. The delegates represent a world society which is far above barriers of nation, race and language. Out of some 450 delegates at Madras, it is planned that a slight majority shall be non-whites, for the first time in such a gathering. Both China and Japan are planning to send their full quota. A world meeting of the Christian Churches is a visible sign of the new earth of which this Church is the core.

"Africa's delegation at 'Madras 1938' is about 30 strong. They come from the great scenes of missionary activity and Church building—Uganda, Congo, the Gold Coast, the Ivory Coast, rich in sacrifice and devotion. Five per cent. of her population is now Christian. South Africa brings her inheritance of Dutch, British and African Church traditions. Africa offers to the new earth gaiety and a deep sense of the all-pervading spiritual.

"China has known the Christian Gospel for a hundred and forty years, and there has grown up a strong Chinese Church rooted in the soil of China. Christian

missions have been at the heart of the new China. Although Chinese Christians are less than one per cent. of the population, their influence and enterprise are formative facts. China brings into the world council of the Church a call for regeneration, reconstruction and evangelism.

"India takes her place. One in fifty of India's population is a Christian, but the population increases at the rate of over two millions a year. Pressure on the land, and a 'below subsistence' level of living create a gigantic rural problem. Poverty, illiteracy, and abject inferiority take generations to remove, but one of the glories of the Christian Church in India is that from these levels a new race of men and women is growing. India brings to the making of the new earth a deep faith in the supremacy of the spiritual.

"Japan brings a Christianity which is strongest among the urban and middle classes and offers a sense of discipline and order to the new life. The republics of South America join in the world meeting, and so do Mexico and the lands of the near East. Then come the great East Indies possessions of the Netherlands, which are the centre of vigorous Christian enterprise. In the East Indies archipelago there are two million Christians set amongst fifty millions of Moslems. Bordering on these are the Phillipine Islands, living under the American flag, the one nominally Christian country in the Orient.

"The great democracies of the United States of America and Canada are in the forefront of the world Church; and the vast continent of Australia sends delegates representing its virile pioneer peoples. From the small groups and islands of the Central and Southern Pacific and from the greater islands of Madagascar and New

Guinea come representatives of churches still young in the faith. Delegates from most of the European countries, too, with their deeply-rooted Christian traditions, take their place as partners in the new world order, among them a team of fifteen from the British Isles. A new world order is slowly emerging through the growth of the Christian Church."

This Conference of men and women from every great race and from many of the smaller ones is striking tribute to a measure of unity that exists in the Christian Church, and one of its great results will be to make union closer, particularly in Missionary work. "Most denominations" asserts Kenneth G. Grubb in "World Dominion," "agree that their peculiar emphases are of inferior importance to the task that confronts them in the

"foreign field," and the presence of millions of non-Christians eliminates the problem of the growth of one denomination at the expense of another. The whole Church grows at the expense of the powers of darkness. Thus co-operative movements among missions and union movements between younger Churches have had a treble advantage which the older Churches do not have: they face a common foe; they can pursue their task without fear of infringing each other's spheres; and they enjoy a freedom from those complications which for historical reasons beset the older Churches."

Let us unite in prayer that from Madras there may spring a mighty spirit of evangelisation, stirring the army of God to yet greater conquests.

## 20th Anniversary of Queen Salote's Ascension.

On October 11th, Queen Salote Tubou celebrated the 20th Anniversary of her accession to the Throne of Tonga amidst the rejoicing of her loyal and happy people. Queen Salote has ever sought to lead Tonga in the way of righteousness, and counts it a privilege to be a Methodist class leader. In response to a message of respectful congratulation from the Board of Missions upon reaching the 20th Anniversary of her Accession, Her Majesty Queen Salote sent the following gracious reply:—

The Palace,  
Nukualofa, Tonga,  
19th October, 1938.

The General Secretary,  
Methodist Missionary Society,  
Westport, New Zealand.

Sir,—

I acknowledge with a deep sense of gratitude your kindness and thoughtfulness in forwarding a message of greeting on the occasion of the 20th Anniversary of my Accession to the Throne of Tonga.

I pray that I may have the benefit of Divine guidance throughout the years spared to me to continue my endeavour for the well-being of my subjects and the benefit of my people.

Yours sincerely,  
SALOTE TUBOU.



HER MAJESTY QUEEN SALOTE.

## GINA AT WORK.

### A MESSAGE TO NEW ZEALAND.

I have been going backwards and forwards for the last four weeks from here to Bilua, taking sick folks over to the hospital. The first patient we took over was Naphtatai Fotu—he took a sudden illness probably due to T.B. We left here on Saturday morning, but there was not a breeze anywhere, the sea was as calm as a pool and the sun was very hot, and we had to pull the whole way, and you know what it is like to pull under the tropical sun and against the tide. We left Simbo at 10 o'clock on Saturday morning and we got to Bilua at 4 a.m. Sunday morning. It was raining hard during the night, and as there was no awning on the "Clara M. Gorman," I was very much afraid something might happen to N. Fotu, but he was alright. All the boats-crew were very tired and cold, however, and I was glad to get Nai over to the hospital. We stayed there about four days because my two boys and a few of the boats-crew had injections.

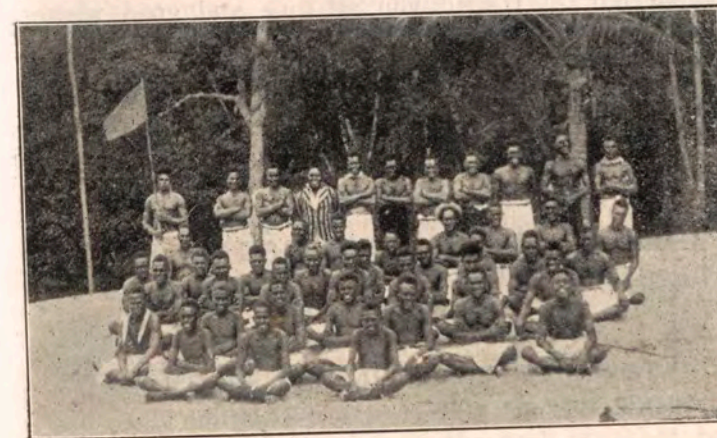
When we left Bilua, the weather was just the opposite—the wind was blowing on the beam and the sea was very rough; however, the "Clara M. Gorman" travelled very fast, but we were pitching the whole way, and suddenly we were alarmed of the boat very nearly capsized because a big wave came and lifted the rudder right off from the gudgeon, and we had to let down the mainsail and two boys jump off the

boat and break through the big waves to get the rudder which was a long way off. At that time a boy was holding steer while I was looking after the main-sheet. We had to use three oars as rudders—one on either side and one on the runner.

About three weeks ago, we took an old man over to the hospital who had a cut on his knee, cut it with a knife, but while he was here they didn't tell me anything about him, and he had been lying down for over a fortnight until I went round to visit them, then I saw him lying there looking very sick, so I straight away came home and got the boat ready and we went round and took him, but he was very sore, poor old chap; the Doctor try to do all he can for him but he was far from better, so he was only in the hospital for a few days and then passed away.

### WORK ON SIMBO.

Everything is O.K.—still battling along slowly, the life of the people is improving to a higher standard since my return from the Home Church. I can assure you, Sir, that my travelling through New Zealand last year has done me a world of good. The more I gave to the people there the more I gained spiritual uplifting, and now I am working, not with a cold heart, but a warm heart to try and drive the darkness away from the lives of these people, so that they may have the true light and



Bible Class Camp at Simbo,  
organised by Gina.

love of our Lord Jesus Christ. Not only on my island (Simbo), but everywhere I go in the different islands I preach the same thing—like the four main points of the Oxford Group Movement.

#### APRIL EASTER CAMP.

We had our B.C. Camp this year, and at this camp we had some fine experiences of God's presence with us, and in the quietness of a calm and tropical moonlight night, under the coconut palms while the stars are glittering in the sky, we had our prayer meetings and talks on some helpful thoughts concerning Christ and our own lives. In that camp, there seemed to be a great and new awakening of spiritual experiences come upon all the campers. I am sending you a snap-shot taken in camp so that you can use it as you like.

#### SCHOOL.

Our school has improved a lot this year, although there is plenty more to do—our school work is not settled to what I would like it should be. However, next year, when all our other works are in a good order we are going to improve our school work. At present there are 70 in the senior school and 50 in the junior.

Our school opens at 5 a.m. every day in the week except Saturday. Our school hours are from 5 a.m. to 10 a.m., and the rest of the day is for practical work, either gardening or cooking copra to buy some rice, because all our gardens are not ready yet, so with little bit of food from the Lotu people besides we kept three or four bags of rice in store for supply. Every Thursday we have games of football and cricket and also physical drill.

### Greetings

WE WISH ALL OUR READERS A JOYOUS CHRISTMAS-TIDE AND A NEW YEAR MADE ABUNDANTLY HAPPY BY A CLOSER FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD.

WE SEEK YOUR HELP TO MAKE KNOWN IN THE SOLOMONS THE CHRIST WHOSE ADVENT WE SO JOYOUSLY CELEBRATE.

#### OUR TRIP TO BILUA.

Our choir went over to Bilua to their Thanksgiving Day to sing for them. It was a great day, but perhaps the others will give you an account of it. Our first cricket eleven also went to play a match against the Bilua Mission boys, and so far we won the first Test, but we haven't finished it yet.

#### LETTERS FROM ALL OVER NEW ZEALAND.

Since I came back from New Zealand I have received dozens of letters from you kind people, and I can assure you that they are very helpful and encouraging letters, and I would like you all to accept my very sincere thanks for them. Please do not expect me to answer them all individually, because we find it very difficult to find time to write letters out here—at least I do, if not the others. But I shall be always pleased to get your letters at all times.

Well, I think that is all I can tell you for now, but before I close let me say how pleased we all are for the Doctor and Nurses. Thank God for answering our prayers, and I'm quite sure that all our good and faithful friends throughout the Dominion will continue to help us to maintain him. It is a wonderful thing to see him going about ministering to the needs of the people. It is a real Christ-like work.

At even ere the sun was set  
The sick, O Lord, around thee lay,  
O in what diver's pains they met!  
O with what joy they went away!

I send you all love and good wishes.  
Cheerio.

Yours in His Service,  
B. GINA.

## Helena Goldie Hospital—Quarterly Report.

### JULY TO SEPTEMBER, 1938.

A quarterly report is naturally mainly a matter of statistics, and I append below the figures for the three months, July to September, inclusive. These figures, more or less, speak for themselves, and reflect fairly accurately the activities of the hospital. It will be noted that the figures for August are considerably lower than for the other two months; this is due to a number of considerations; partly because of the visit to Choiseul which I paid in that month, and partly because we more or less attempted to keep numbers low during the period of moving into the new house and wards, with all the extra work which that moving entailed. There are one or two other matters that call for comment.

#### BUILDINGS.

The most important event in the quarter's work was, of course, the completion of the new buildings, both the new wards, and the Sister's Home, commenced at the time of my arrival here. The sisters moved into their new quarters early in September, and a fortnight later the new wards were ready for occupation. I should like to record my gratitude to the carpenter, Mr. Oldridge, for the quality of the service he rendered during the three months he was with us, and for his unflinching patience, helpfulness, and good humour, in the face of a multitude of difficulties, both great and small. The new wards are proving eminently satisfactory, and have made a tremendous difference to the ease and efficiency with which we can do our work. Naturally, the European type of building brings its own special problems, but we are learning to meet them, and to use the buildings to best advantage. As the figures show, we have so far made considerably more use of the men's than of the women's ward—indeed, the main large compartment of the latter has been full ever since it was opened. The additional accommodation means that we can admit many patients who previously had to be treated as out-patients. This allows of much more efficient work, especially in the investigation of obscure cases, which is impossible in the rush of

a crowded out-patients' department.  
**CHOISEUL.**

My visit to Choiseul I have already reported on unofficially. I was away for ten days in all, two of which, of course, were spent in travelling. It was more a trip of reconnaissance than anything else, for a week in such a wide field gives little opportunity for much intensive work; but as such, it was amply justified. I found on Choiseul very little major disease, though naturally in such a brief visit I could not expect to see a great deal or to assess completely the nature of the problems there, but a tremendous amount of minor and chronic disease, urgently calling for treatment. I visited a few of the villages around Sasamaqa, including Voza, Saqigai and Vagara, Malonono, and Boe; gave a fair number of injections, and extracted several very bad teeth. At Sasamaqa itself, I saw some two hundred patients, and the most important part of the work was making contact with Ben, the medical boy stationed there, leaving him instructions for carrying on the treatment of the patients we saw together, and giving him some new confidence and enthusiasm for his work. The special problems which Choiseul raises from the medical point of view, and the means by which I hope it will be possible to meet them, at any rate to some degree, are matters outside the scope of this report.  
**LEPROSY.**

One department of our work not specifically reflected in the figures is that of the leprosy clinic. Only one case appears in the list of admissions; this was Mele Pijurade, a married woman, who has given birth to a baby during the quarter. The babe is perfectly healthy, and has, of course, been separated from the mother since birth. I am hoping to make arrangements for its adoption soon. In addition, I have a total of ten lepers on my books; six of these are attending regularly twice a week for treatment, and two others from Ranongo have gone home, but will be returning to commence treatment in November. One boy, a Malaita boy from Ranongo, has defaulted, but I am hoping that he, too, will be persuaded to come

back. Two cases in particular appear to be responding well to treatment: but the disease is one whose stages have to be read in terms of years rather than of months.

**STAFF.**

There have been one or two changes in staff during the quarter. Our cook boy, Allan, has resigned, and at present I am working with four boys, who do the work in wards and outpatients, and take weekly duties as cook boy. I am expecting a new recruit, a boy from Simbo, early in the coming quarter. There have been two additions to the native nursing staff—Lisa Iabule, and Ivy Bui, both from Roviana.

**STATISTICS, JULY TO SEPTEMBER, 1938.**

**INPATIENTS.**

	July	Aug.	Sept.	Total
Patients in hospital at end of preceding month .....	23	16	19	
Patients in hospital at end of month ..	16	19	34	
<b>Patients admitted:</b>				
Men .....	21	15	25	61
Women .....	17	8	14	39
Children .....	12	9	3	24
Births .....	3	4	6	13
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>137</b>

**GENEROUS BEQUESTS**

We record with gratitude the receipt of a further £1,000 from Mr. S. Gorman, of Nelson, to be added to the Clara Matilda and Samuel Gorman Bequest for Medical Work in the Solomons. This splendid Bequest now amounts to £8,000, and the income from it plays an important part in helping to maintain the Medical Unit.

A bequest of £2,000 is reported in the will of the late Mrs. Caughey Preston for our work in the Solomons. Mrs. Preston had promised £50 per annum to help Maintain the Doctor, and it is probable that a part of her bequest will be invested to ensure continuity of that income.

Could money be bequeathed for a higher purpose than helping the sick and suffering so far from other medical service, and in sending forth the Gospel of Jesus Christ to those who sit in the shadows of superstition and fear? With bequests large and small, we earnestly urge Methodists to thus share in the Missionary Enterprise of our Church in the Solomons.

**CONCLUSION.**

A review of the quarter's work naturally leaves one with a sense of dissatisfaction, and at this stage it is well that it should be so. There are so many matters to be considered, apart from the purely medical aspects of the work: and it will be many months before we can tackle them all in adequate fashion. At the same time, we are deeply thankful for what has been achieved, and for the interest and the joy that we have found in the work. Individually, many lives have been touched, and many bodies healed: and in the little that has been done, we find confidence to face the much that still remains.

ALLEN G. RUTTER,  
Medical Superintendent.

**Patients discharged:**

Men .....	23	13	14	50
Women .....	17	8	9	34
Children .....	17	11	8	36
Deaths .....	3	1	2	6
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>126</b>

<b>Average number in hospital .....</b>	<b>24.7</b>	<b>16.7</b>	<b>27.6</b>	<b>23.0 Av.</b>
<b>Average length of stay (in days) ..</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>14.8</b>	<b>13.1</b>	<b>11.8 Av.</b>

**OUTPATIENTS.**

Total Attendances	6432	4856	5687	16,975
Daily Average ..	207.4	156.6	180.6	181.5 Av.
New Patients ....	207	81	116	404
Injections for Yaws	372	110	173	655
Ante-natal Clinic	21	13	51	85

**MAINTAIN THE DOCTOR.**

We gratefully acknowledge the following generous contributions:—

E. H. Logan—Geraldine .....	2	0	0
Anonymous — Dunedin .....	5	0	0
Pitt Street .....	11	0	0
Mrs. M. E. Hore—Addington ....	10	0	0
Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Jones—Cashmere	5	0	0
"Methodist" .....	5	0	0
"K" .....	1	0	0
Stratford Circuit .....	7	6	
Mrs. Birkett—Stratford .....	10	0	
Miss L. Andrews—Wanganui ....	10	0	
Brooklyn Church .....	1	0	0
Miss A. M. Worsley—Epsom .....	4	0	
Anonymous — Waiwhetu .....	1	0	0
Mrs. Cooper—Hutt .....	5	0	
Woodhaugh Ladies' Guild .....	2	0	0
"Two Friends" .....	1	10	0
Pitt Street Trustees .....	100	0	0
J. Saunders—Carterton .....	1	0	0
Mrs. Fensham—Carterton .....	5	0	
B. McGeachie—Te Awamutu .....	1	0	0
Mrs. Rayner—Te Poi .....	5	0	0
Miss Rennie—Mt. Eden .....	10	0	
Wakefield-Dovedale .....	5	0	0

**M.W.M.U.**

**24th ANNUAL CONFERENCE.**

By Mrs. H. NICOLSON.



Miss E. M. RISHWORTH  
Dominion President, M.W.M.U.

The pretty town of Feilding, with its homes nestling among green trees, was the scene of unusual activity from October 11th to the 14th. Mahomet had come to Mecca—the women of Methodism had gathered for the Annual Conference of the Missionary Union, and were warmly welcomed on their arrival by the Feilding ladies.

Tuesday evening at the social function friendships were renewed, and new ones made. What a time of happy fellowship there is during Conference days.

On the platform were Miss Rishworth (Dominion President), Mrs. Duke (Vice-president), Mrs. Lewis (Dominion Secretary), Mrs. Heighway (Dominion Treasurer), Mrs. Darragh (Feilding Auxiliary President), Revs. Paris and Allen.

The highlights of Conference are always the devotional periods, and this year was no exception.

The Communion service on Wednesday

morning, when the church was filled with women eager to receive the blessing, was something to be remembered.

The Rev. P. R. Paris, President of Conference, who delivered the pre-Communion address, spoke of the various names by which the service is known—"The Lord's Supper," which made us think of the family where all barriers were broken down and all shared equally at the table of the Father. "Holy Communion"—the ideal of family fellowship with God, having Communion with Him.

We were reminded of the story of the woman, who poured the precious ointment over the Master, how that wherever this story is told, it is told as the introduction to the Passion and Crucifixion, and has a strange hold on all Christians, because of the sheer beauty of expression and love, and also because of the commendation of Jesus Himself.

In closing, Mr. Paris said it was left to a woman disciple to suffer for Jesus and to give the most beautiful offering of love and devotion to Him because it involved for her a Cross.

Miss Rishworth's presidential address given on Wednesday afternoon was a challenging one, the note of joy being predominant. The past year, she said, had been one of soul-stirring events—the 400th Anniversary of the Bible, Wesley's Bi-Centenary, and in our own sphere, the Doctor's return to the Solomons, which was a great joy. The wonder of this joy, in our own lives, is that it is to be our strength, beyond, and untouched by, the untoward happenings of life. If Christ dwells in us, His strength is sufficient to carry us through—and joyously.

On Thursday morning Mrs. Duke turned our thoughts to "The Holy Spirit," the need for tarrying as did the disciples of old—quietly waiting on God until the power came. This was something our great women's fellowship needed to dwell on.

Mrs. Oldham conducted the devotional period on Friday morning, keeping the same high tone that was characteristic throughout Conference. Her theme was the absolute necessity of re-birth. We must be born again before we can enter the Kingdom of God, or work for Him.

The half-hour spent on Friday afternoon, using the hymns of the new hymn-book, for song and prayer alternately, was an innovation appreciated by delegates—the singing, unaccompanied. Those who have been privileged to attend many Conferences, missed two familiar faces—Mrs. Bowron and Mrs. Pacey. Their wise guidance and statesmanship have done much to make our Missionary Union what it is to-day. Though unable to be present, inspiring messages were received from both.

It was one of the pleasures of Conference to confer the honour of life membership of the executive on Mrs. Pacey. The words of the telegram conveying this to Mrs. Pacey were true indeed: "Conference elects you a life member of the Union Executive. Honouring ourselves in honouring you." Many of us missed Miss Pearce, and a message of remembrance was sent to her.

Mrs. Hodder, another of our stalwarts, was with us, and was congratulated on holding the position of Auxiliary President for 30 years. Mrs. Hodder's wise thinking and Christian living have meant a great deal to our Union.

It was good to note a large number of younger women in the delegation, also to meet no less than ten of our Missionary Sisters.

How we all enjoyed hearing Sister Edna White, and our pioneer Sister in the Maori work—Sister Eleanor Dobby. In fact, all our Sisters made us proud to have them associated with us.

Prior to the discussion on Home Mission Sisters' Salaries, the President suggested that the Sisters might leave Conference and take a walk along the countryside for half an hour.

The Rev. G. I. Laurenson's talk gave us a new outlook on our H.M. Work, and spoke of the worthwhileness of "Kurahuna" where girls are re-created.

And so we come to the end of our Feild-



Mrs. H. E. PACEY  
Life Member M.W.M.U. Executive.

ing visit. Mrs. Darragh assured us at the beginning much prayer had been offered for the success of Conference. That prayer was not in vain.

What excellent planning had been done, and the largest Conference yet, was carried through without a hitch.

All honour to the ladies of Feilding!

At the commencement of Conference, we sang, "And art Thou come with us to 'dwell,'" and the last verse of our closing hymn—688 was a prayer.

"Go with us Lord from hence,

We only ask that Thou be sharer in our daily task,

So side by side with Thee, shall each one know,

The blessedness begun below."

So we carry back to our various Auxiliaries the note of thanksgiving and joy, so evident during these days of fellowship.

As our President reminded us, God has indeed set the feet of womanhood in a very large room, and it is for us to make the best use of our privileges.

Let us go on believing that the best is yet to be. Excelsior!

## Personal and General.

### Solomon Islands District Synod.

When the last mail left the Solomons on November 8th, members of Synod were gathering at Roviana. Synod reports and financial statements will not be to hand until late in December. We fully anticipate inspirational news regarding the growth of the Kingdom, but the financial returns will challenge us to renewed effort.

The Chairman writes: "Until the brethren have all their returns in, I cannot give anything like complete figures. I am afraid, however, that our worst fears will be realised and I shall be surprised if we reach more than £1,200 or £1,400 in Income. . . . Our people have given generously—many villages making a desperate effort to double their gifts of last year in order to make up for low prices. The price has steadily declined, however, and so we drop to the above level." The contribution of the Solomon Islands District last year was £3,439, so it will be seen that a drop of £2,000 is anticipated.

### Rev. J. R. Metcalfe.

After successful deputation work in Otago-Southland and North Auckland, the Rev. J. R. Metcalfe sailed for Australia on December 8th. We have greatly enjoyed his fellowship and his message, and pray that the inspiration and vision he has brought may abide with us. We wish for him a happy re-union with Mrs. Metcalfe and their daughter and a restful furlough in Victoria.



SISTER GRACE.

### Sister Grace McDonald.

Sister Grace McDonald, upon leaving the Solomons 4½ years ago, proceeded to Belfast where she continued her training as a nurse. She took

### On Furlough.

Mrs. A. W. Silvester and her little daughter Ngaire reached Auckland in November, and the Rev. A. W. Silvester expects to sail from the Solomons for furlough on December 22nd. Sister Lina Jones will also sail by the same boat, but expects to spend some weeks in Victoria before crossing to New Zealand. By high and successful service these workers have earned a good furlough, and they will receive an abundant welcome back to New Zealand.

### Beautiful for Situation.

We are quite thrilled with our new house and like it very much. We have a lovely view from the front, and if we are at the house will be able to see the "Malaita" approaching and leaving Gizo. Yesterday Sister Merle and I unpacked all our china and kitchenware, and we have not had a single breakage.

—Joy Whitehouse, Bilua.

From the verandah where I am sitting can be seen the church, the hospital, the school, the college building, Mr. Leadley's house and Mr. Goldie's house, which are all on the hill, and to my right is the playing field. A little further on is the small boys' house and, beyond that, plantation, sea, and a long stretch of islands. The green is so green and the blue is so blue that it is a lovely sight. To the left is more plantation, sea, and the island mountain of Rendova—our Rangitoto.

—Effie Harkness, Roviana.

the Midwifery Course in New Zealand prior to sailing for the Solomons and now, after three and a-half years' further training, has qualified for the valuable diploma issued by the Joint Nursing and Midwives' Council for Northern Ireland.

We extend to Sister Grace a glad welcome back to New Zealand and trust that we shall be able very shortly to re-appoint her to our Solomon Islands staff.

## New Zealanders in Fiji.

By SISTER INEZ HAMES.

Ten members of the present staff of our Methodist Mission in Fiji are New Zealanders. This seems surprising, for this branch of missionary work belongs to our Australasian Church. But, more important still, four more teaching sisters are required in 1939. If Australia cannot find them, will New Zealand respond to the call and supply the need?

New Zealand's service to Fiji has been valuable. Amongst others, the name of Mary Ballantine comes to our minds. An honoured name in Fiji, a gravestone in the Ba cemetery, a memorial in the hearts and lives of many women, and a large and successful educational institution built to her memory. Ballantine Memorial School, with another New Zealander, Miss Frances Tolley, as principal, is supplying a great need in Fiji to-day, and its influence for good on the womanhood of Fiji can never be measured.

We would that we could adequately explain the opportunity that lies before those who would help to mould the character of the young women of Fiji. They are bonny girls, anxious to learn, grateful for help, pleasant to know, longing to progress and to be able to do things that women of other lands can do, prone to stumble in life's pathway, but ready to be guided by sympathetic care.

Fiji is a strategic place in the South Pacific. In more ways than one Suva stands at the crossroads. This is not a dying race being helped to die decently. The Fijian population is increasing. Its people are worth helping through a difficult time. Other New Zealanders at present influencing young Fiji chiefly through young men and boys are Mr. W. E. Donnelly, Miss May Sharpe, Mr. Stan Andrews, Mr. A. Birtles, Miss Irvine, and the writer of this article.

In the school of which Mr. Donnelly is headmaster, there are over four hundred boys (Fijians and Indians). Constantly boys who wish to enter are being turned away through lack of room. Scholastic results are high. The tone is good. Characters are being helped and lives uplifted.



Miss FIJI.

Davuilevu, where many Australians and some New Zealanders have worked, is far-famed. Its fore-runner, Navuloa, sent the first Fijian Missionaries to other Pacific Islands. The service of brown-skinned Fijians in Papua, Solomons, New Britain and Australia's Northern Territory has been, and is, conspicuous for its bravery and devotion. Davuilevu trains native ministers and teachers, besides every year providing an education to make better citizens of some six hundred Fijians at a time. It is the largest mission station in the South Pacific.

But to some this third-generation mission work does not appeal. They want to evangelise. They wish to take Christ to those who do not know His Name. Then we would commend to you the work amongst the Indian population of Fiji. For twenty years Miss A. M. Griffin and Miss C. J. Weston, also of New Zealand, have been working for these people. The work of both has been outstanding in ability and enthusiasm and in their love for the Indian people and their wisdom  
(Continued on Page 15.)

## Our John Wesley Celebrations.

By Rev. J. R. METCALFE.

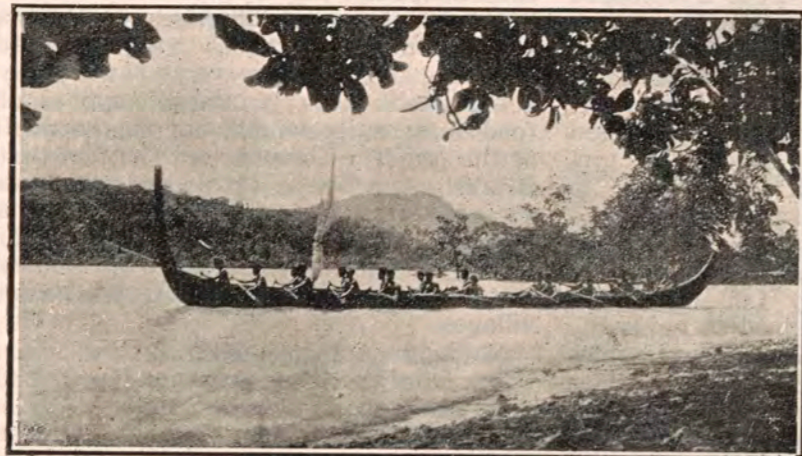
Church celebrations are not at all easy to arrange on Choiseul, distances are too great, there are too many people to be catered for, and the people have no background since their church history only dates from 1902 and there is little reading matter available for them in their own tongue. Rev. D. C. Alley, of Teop, whose Station is perhaps the most compact in our Mission District and who enjoys the fellowship of our virile Fijian Probationer Eroni Kotosoma, showed initiative and forethought by obtaining Eroni's services in the translation of a Fijian pamphlet on John Wesley into the local dialect, and running off a number of copies on a Duplicator, so that each Teacher was able to pass on to his people the message of the Bi-centenary Celebrations. We on Choiseul had not the same resources and lacked somewhat in vision. As the time drew near our Quarterly Meeting considered the position, but it was left very largely to the minister to take the initiative. At our weekly Prayer Meeting we considered the matter and finally drafted a programme which the Q.M. accepted and to which we very largely adhered.

In the first place we decided that special prayer should be offered at each evening Lotu beginning on May 1st, and a few brief petitions were outlined to guide the worshippers in silent prayer, and copies were sent to the Teachers. Then outlines of four sermons were prepared for the four Sunday Services preceding the Celebrations, so that all should cover pretty nearly the same ground. Finally, it was decided to open with meetings at Sasamunga on May 24th, and then send a canoe party to about a dozen other centres so that all who wished could take a part. The last mentioned did not receive immediate approval. It was a new departure, and the leaders of the party, Nathan Kera, Solomon Damusoe and Abel Pitakomoki, were doubtful as to the success of the scheme without the minister to guide. The more I considered the matter, however, the more convinced I became that the best results would be obtained by the

boys going by themselves, taking their own time, using their own mode of transport, and making it an inspirational visit of native leaders to the native churches under purely native conditions. After some hesitation they accepted this plan. A native can best see the native point of view. He can squat comfortably in a native hut for hours discussing matters in a way which drives most white men crazy; many a time I have known Stephen Gade-peta sit up all night thrashing out a problem whilst I have been enjoying a good night's rest. Again, a white man can only travel with reasonable comfort by launch, and is a nuisance and a burden when travelling by canoe. But launches cannot anchor off most of our villages, and the freedom of travellers by launch is conditioned not only by weather and tides but by reefs and anchorages, conditions which do not affect canoes to anything like the same extent. Moreover, a canoe party being unable to carry large supplies of food is more dependent upon the goodwill of the people. I emphasised the fact that it was a venture of faith and the boys accepted it as such, for they took only a few handfulls of rice and a small tin of biscuits to help them along a stretch of coast where there are no Methodist villages.

We held our Prayer Meetings and found them helpful. The preachers preached from the outlines and found them a nuisance, or so it seemed to me from the two attempts I heard. Then came the great day at Sasamunga. We were up betimes. The prayer meeting was at 6 a.m. and services followed at 8, 11, 3, and 7, and the Lord's Supper rounded off the day. We had the seven members of the canoe party on the platform, the three Teachers as mentioned above, three local preachers, Peter Pitavolomo, Solomon Sesero and Joeli Dereveki, and one Chief, Nathan Pitavato, who was keen to be with them and very ready to give his testimony. We arranged that two or three of these should lead the meetings by giving their testimonies on:—"What God has done for

us," "What we have done for God," "Are we satisfied with the present position," and "What am I going to do about it," and that ample opportunity should be given for all who wished to bear witness. The meetings went with a swing, and there was some very good singing. We had as our special hymn the translation of the one the Rev. W. Deane, of New South Wales, an ex-missionary, had composed, which has for chorus the words: "God is with us, God is with us; The best of all is, God is with us." The congregation soon picked up the tune and sang the words with gusto. The attendances were very good throughout the day and there were some splendid testimonies given, but very few apart from the canoe party stayed to the Lord's Supper. Perhaps the day's services had been too much of a trial. Solid concentration for so many hours is not a native's strong point, and discussing the meetings the next morning we decided



THE CANOE PARTY SETS OUT.

to make three instead of four by uniting the last two. We had thought there might be some difficulty in filling the four places still vacant in the canoe, but our minds were soon set at rest. One of our young students, Mark Pitakaji, begged to be allowed to go. Mark was born before N.A.B. was known in the Islands and he will suffer through life with a deformed arm, caused by sores, which is very nearly useless, still he can paddle a canoe, so we agreed to his request.

The party set out on May 25th on what

was almost a trial run, to hold services at Nabusasa and Boe. On the Saturday morning they returned to report and were full of the joy of service. Mark Patikaji had given a splendid testimony. Summarised, it was to the effect that, at Sasamunga, he had not known what the minister had meant when he had spoken about the "warmed heart," but that now he knew for himself. His testimony had helped others and the meetings had been an inspiration to them all. One oldish man, Ezekiel Robako, a leading man at Sepa, had attached himself to the party and said he was going with them, and he would not be gainsaid; whilst the other vacant places in the canoe had been filled without any trouble. Nathan Kera and Solomon said, "Minister we now know you were right in sending us by ourselves, we did better without you than we should have done with you." So, with our blessing, away they went on their expedition.

They travelled 250 miles, carried out every appointment as planned and returned to the day agreed upon after three weeks' journeying, and Abel, who looked after the food supplies, returned to me the tin of biscuits. They all looked in the pink of condition, a happy, healthy party of evangelists. Nathan Kera reported, "We have not had any head winds, we have not had to battle with any heavy seas,

there has not been any heavy rain, we have not had any sickness, wherever we have gone we have been welcomed and fed until we could eat no more, the people have been sorry to see us leave, and we wish we were just beginning the journey instead of ending it." Young Mark and old Robako had been great assets. The people at Bira Bira had travelled six miles with only an inch or two of freeboard for their canoe, for no one wished to be left behind and they had crammed 40 into a canoe normally holding 24. At Pangoe the

church was in a dangerous condition, but they held Lotu in it. In the midst of one of the services there was a loud report and a general desire to make a hasty exit; one of the main bearers had cracked. In the scramble a woman fell with her baby underneath her. She was trodden on, but succeeded in protecting the baby which, although unconscious, soon recovered. Determined to carry on, they emptied a large canoe house of its contents and continued as though nothing had happened. At the following Quarterly Meeting we found that 160 people or so had stated it to be their wish to know more of the way of the warm heart. We were delighted and thanked God. What a difference between this trip and the one the chief Nathan Pitavato had made in his youth. Then they had built a new war canoe, and their first trip was to baptize it with blood. They travelled until they met a lonely man on a lonely reef and returned with a gory trophy!

Our first arrangement had been that Stephen Gadebeta and I should follow on the tracks of the party as closely as possible and try to organise into fellowship bands, those who had made a declaration of their desire to seek the way of the warmed heart and those who claimed the experience. Circumstances compelled us to alter our plans, but we were able to hold meetings at a number of centres under varying conditions, the most crowded being when we had about a dozen men on the very limited deck at the stern of the "Ilehe." I carried on Bible Study and Experience Meetings, discussing a passage of Scripture and encouraging question and answer, trying to get them to talk and give their opinions. Many responded freely and all the meetings were helpful. Some of the teachers showed quite an

aptitude for leadership, but as I am convinced that the best results will be by having small classes of a dozen or so, our problem will be to train sufficient leaders, and to supply lesson helps, to give leading questions, to keep first enthusiasms from waning and inspire increasing devotion to God and their fellowmen. Stephen did splendidly and handled the passages of Scripture chosen with insight and with considerable profit to those who were under his leadership, but there are very few with his experience, and everything depends on the individual leader. I had to leave on furlough before these meetings could be properly organised, and I am looking forward with interest to see what Kera, Stephen, Abel, Solomon and others have done in my absence.

Just before I left we were able to settle a number of long outstanding disputes, a question of land and coconuts that had been in dispute for years and which had caused much annoyance, a question of wilful house destruction which had meant imprisonment and heavy fines for some, besides other smaller matters which I believe the John Wesley spirit influenced considerably for good. Then, too, the Annual Offering was much larger in kind than I had known it formerly, and was made with gladness of heart. So that if the work of consolidation is not all that we desire, the fruits of our services are known and seen. We hope and pray that this new venture of faith will be a milestone in the development of the Native Church and that the new experience, so richly enjoyed, will grow in power and influence, provide the new loyalties required, and enable the people to accept joyously the restrictions necessary for the reign of order, mutual forbearance and brotherly love.

The Women's World Day of Prayer for Missions will be held on FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24th, 1939. Please mark this date on your calendar.



## An Encouraging Survey.

By SISTER EDNA WHITE.

In the last issue of the "Open Door" Doctor Rutter gives an account of some of his first impressions, and now I am asked to give some of my last ones. I am sure that all who read the doctor's articles would feel a wonderful thrill and special thankfulness to God as they realised that once again they had a doctor representing them in our Solomon Islands' field, and that the medical work had been fully re-established at the Helena Goldie hospital. Concerning the arrival of the medical party, and we do not forget Mrs. Rutter, it was a great joy to see just the way they all took to the work and to the people, and how quickly they settled in under such totally different climatic and other conditions. And the response made by the native people did not in any way disappoint us. Dozens and dozens of folk, who must have been lying sick in their villages for considerable lengths of time, scorning maybe, the help of a mere Sister, were soon brought along, and no one could have guessed just how busy doctor was going to be during those first few days and weeks. And we all know that he is going to keep busy: his last letters reveal that very plainly, and I do hope that all our readers will heed his plea for constant prayer, for, coupled with his business, there is much of difficulty and disappointment, and we at home should not fail in this one way in which we all can have a part in furthering the great work overseas.

When I returned to the Field in 1936 the first thing that struck me was the fact of how quickly one settled back into the work even after an absence of 3½ years. Familiar faces and conditions, despite the almost entire absence of other white fellow-workers, and constant meeting of old patients and friends helped considerably in this of course. What a joy it was to see so many of the "Home" girls married and happily settled with their friendly little families so proudly brought along for my inspection and approbation. I wished Sister May Barnett could have seen her grown-up 'family' and 'grandsons and daughters.' In spite of many adverse conditions when the girls are

married and away from the influence of the Home and the Sister, the majority of them do try to live up to the standard they have been taught, and besides the tidiness and cleanliness, one often notices little European touches here and there about their homes.

After I had been back 7 months I was sent to our Head Station at Roviana to relieve Sister Vera Cannon, and as it was seven years since I previously had lived there, the progress made by the young people especially, was most noticeable. The college, school, Sunday school and Lotu all seemed to mean much more to them, and new developments in all departments caused much wonderment and pleasure. One felt that the foundation work done by Mr. Goldie and other early workers, along with that of the present staff was very definitely bearing fruit.

Regarding the medical work at both Roviana and Bilua, I first of all noticed that there seemed to be much less malaria, and this I feel sure was due to the taking of more prophylactic quinine and greater readiness to take adequate doses during an attack. On the whole, one couldn't help being impressed with the fact that the native people were realising that European medicines and our methods of treating sickness were more worth while than perhaps they had once thought. And it was most encouraging to see their willingness, almost in every case, to obey Dr. Rutter in the smallest detail: to attend out-patients regularly, be admitted to hospital when advised, not to go home without his permission, and in so many ways prove that the medical work of earlier missionaries and sisters had taught the people to value more fully the work of the doctor and the hospital.

It was a great relief too, to have an entire absence of dysentery during the 2½ years. It is a dread disease, as most of our workers can testify, and many have indelible memories of one epidemic or more. Here again we can only feel that its non-prevalence was due to the greater knowledge of hygiene, sanitation, etc. that the people now have. Mrs. Leadley is

doing a fine work among the College students by giving medical lectures each year to the senior class. She holds an examination and gives prizes and is greatly encouraged by the interest evinced as shown by the results of the test.

No Sisters' home is complete without a young motherless or orphaned baby, and in June, within two months of my re-establishment at Bilua, five days' old Margaret arrived for adoption from Simbo, where her mother had died a few hours after her birth, and no wet-nurse was available. We sisters get great joy from caring for these motherless infants, but it was very gratifying to find I was not called upon to care for any others from the Bilua circuit, proving a decline in the maternal mortality and maybe a greater readiness to wet-nurse any destitute babes—a practice we have long encouraged. We believe that the decline in the maternal mortality, or some of it at any rate, is due to the greater willingness of the women to avail themselves of the antenatal examinations given by the nurses, and to heed advice regarding necessary

care, and the taking of iron tonic and prophylactic quinine during pregnancy. Tonic especially, is regarded by both men and women as the outstanding hospital medicine; even little tots of 5 and 6 line up for it, quite of their own accord. Upon the adults the psychological effect of a few doses of tonic is marvellous.

Another pleasing feature in connection with the medical work is the permanent position the native girls occupy on the hospital staff. Although it is only 11 years since girls began to help in hospital, we now find a lot of the more enlightened parents eager and anxious that their daughters should have some training, and many have passed through hospital while, when Dr. Rutter arrived to take over the work, there were five girls all with some degree of training and capable of giving a great deal of practical help on the staff.

In conclusion, I should like to say that there are many evidences that the native people are taking a much wider outlook and realising a deeper and broader knowledge of the love and saving power of the Lord and Master of us all.

## New Zealanders in Fiji.

(Continued from page 10.)

in dealing with them. Patience is needed, and faith that in time these sons and daughters of India will realise that the God, as shown in Jesus Christ, is the true revelation. But now through the work of schools and orphanages, there are numbers of very genuine young Indian Christians. There is rapid progress in the Indian attitude towards girls' education, and towards the matter of less inhumane treatment of women. There has never before been in Fiji such an opportunity of influencing Indians through girls' educational work.

Another New Zealander in our mission is Mrs. Suckling, pioneer child-welfare worker in Fiji. Her work in saving the lives of Fijian children, training mothers in the care of children and native nurses in Mothercraft work has been most successful, untiring and brave. At present she is holding a relieving position in medi-

cal work among Indian women.

Mrs. Ahrens, once Miss Gertie Scotter, is helping her husband, a New South Wales man, in his hard and useful task in our Mission agricultural school, where Fijians are being trained in modern methods of agriculture.

These eleven, with Mrs. Donnelly, Mrs. Birtles and with Miss Nancy Laurenson who—sad to say—had to leave us through ill-health, and Mr. W. Patterson, who has just completed his year and returned—make in all, fifteen New Zealanders, working in our Mission in Fiji in 1938.

We ask for your co-operation in prayer and sympathy for us and for over thirty-three Australian and numerous Fijian, Rotuman and Indian colleagues. In these days of changing customs and clash of racial cultures, there are serious problems in Fiji.

## WOMEN'S PAGES

## M.W.M.U.

Methodist Women's  
Missionary Union of  
New Zealand.

638 Manukau Rd.,  
Epsom, S.E.3.

Dear Auxiliary Members,—

A year has sped by since this Executive took office and now we are settling down to fresh endeavour.

The Conference at Feilding has given renewed inspiration and we have come home, determined to accept Christ's gift of His joy, to try and realise it in its fullness and then we know that it will be our strength.

Warm friendship was a dominant note of Conference. We prayed, sang — you should have heard our women sing!—and planned together. We were people differing greatly, yet so firmly linked in a common purpose.

The spirits of many absent members hovered round us and often we were conscious of their strength guiding our weakness. Our Feilding members had gone the second mile in their preparations and much of the credit of the happy atmosphere at all our sessions, was due to them and to the ready co-operation of their minister, Rev. J. H. Allen.

It was a pleasure to have so many Sisters with us. Sister Edna White represented the Solomon Sisters—Sister Netta Gittos—Kurahuna Maori Girls' School and there were seven other Sisters who work amongst the Maoris. At one session they lightened the staid decorum of our business by their "back-to-childhood" frolicsomeness.

Nurse Edna got a loving welcome home. We owe her much for the service she has given. For 2½ years she was the sole medical worker on Bilua. But she has done more than nurse. She will be remembered by the Solomon people for her showing forth of Christ's love, even more than for her healing of their physical ills.

Nurses Merle and Joy are appreciating their new home—set on a hill and commanding a wonderful view.

They were much impressed with their first Island Thanksgiving Service. Mr.

Goldie came over from Roviana and Gina came from Simbo bringing his choir. They sang "This is the Day" in English—a wonderful effort. At the afternoon service the love gifts were brought in, totalling £141. Considering the disastrous drop in the price of copra, this represents splendid giving.

Sister Lina Jones has sent to N.Z., samples of the School books and leaflets which she has prepared and had duplicated. They have entailed close work. The duplicator was bought from the "Stamp" money and has proved of great value. She has taught the boys to use it.

Sister Lina is to leave for furlough on December 22nd and Mr. Silvester also expects to come on that boat. Mrs. Silvester and their little girl Ngaire, arrived in Auckland last month—Ngaire's eyes need the attention of a specialist. Mrs. Voyce writes — "Everything is working so smoothly on the Station that we feel as though we had never been away—except that we have such a small family now, without our two dear little boys and Mr. Voyce Senr."

Sister Ada tells of trying to teach a class at School—the Native teacher being ill. First Roviana language poured forth—then she tried English—but the natives just laughed as they could not understand her. Then they talked to her in Siwai dialect which was double dutch to her, so the geography lesson proceeded slowly! She adds, "But I enjoyed taking the class."

Our prayers go out for the Chairman—Mr. Goldie. He carries heavy loads. The big drop in the price of copra especially just when the medical unit is being established, puts an added weight of responsibility on him. But his firm faith never wavers. "I see fine things ahead" he writes, "for our Church here—A Native church a great spiritual force moulding and shaping the life of a great people."

We will soon be preparing for the Xmas season and our thoughts will often go to those in the Solomons and to those at work

amongst our Maori people, who will be separated from their "ain folk." In serving others may the real spirit of Christmas so flood their hearts that loneliness be crowded out.

The members of the Executive join in thanking all Auxiliaries for the loyal work of the past year and sending you best wishes for a very happy Xmas.

Yours very sincerely,  
Emily M. Rishworth.

### NOTES ON THE 1938 M.W.M.U. CONFERENCE

The wish contained in a greeting sent to the 1938 Conference "that it be the largest in numbers, largest in spirit, and largest in good fellowship" was fulfilled in every part. We were privileged to be welcomed by the President of our N.Z. Church, and on the following morning Rev. Paris, at the Communion service, led our thoughts simply and earnestly on sacrifice and love. Sacrifice has been termed, "Love meeting an emergency."

Later, business sessions commenced in the Church Hall. Miss Rishworth (Dominion President) was in the chair, and associated with her were Mrs. Lewis (Dominion Secretary), Mrs. Heighway (Dominion Treasurer), and Mrs. Phillips (Minute Secretary). Ninety-three delegates answered the roll call, including 36 first-timers. Nine deaconess from the Home Field and Sister Edna White from the Solomon Islands were present.

In the welcome to the delegates and in the Presidential address, Miss Rishworth stressed a note of joy. The secret of joy was in service. This was a joyous year in N.Z. Methodism—the medical unit had been restored in the Solomons. Reports from the Sisters at home and overseas often told of difficulties and disappointments, but all was forgotten in the realisation of God's abiding presence. His promises were sure, and they joyfully looked to the future.

### Annual Report.

An increase of 281 members and eight new Auxiliaries have been formed. Sisters' letters, of which 1400 odd have been sent out by Literature Secretary, are being used in several Guilds. District correspondent's work was growing in importance and had been of great service to the executive. Many difficulties of smaller auxiliaries had been brought to light, and to these auxiliaries the executive had sought to give help and encouragement. District Con-

ventions had increased during the past year. It was joyfully noted that Bible Class members are increasingly becoming more missionary-minded. We confidently look to our young folk for the auxiliary members of the future. Several young people's and evening groups have been formed.

### Financial Report.

This showed the year's increase at £221. Easter and Thank-offering services are becoming more general, and members are being encouraged in individual and straight-out giving. We reached our objective for sisters' salaries, viz., £2170. There was an increase in Kurahuna and Executive Funds, and the Solomon Islands Girls' School account now totals £758/16/2. Contributions to the Doctor Fund were £144 6/8.

Stamp Fund.—The secretary reported an income of £111/1/5.

Conference decided to suggest a new scale of salaries for our Home Sisters, resulting in an increase of £55 on our budget. The Finance Committee recommends that we raise an additional £200 for a Sisters' Salaries reserve fund for executive use during the early quarters of the union year before auxiliaries send in their main payments.

### Kurahuna.

Report was followed with keen interest, and admiration felt for the splendid work of matron, staff, and committee. The work grows, there were endless difficulties, but there was also a joy in it. Constant evidence is forthcoming of the permanent benefit in training our Maori Girls as home makers.

### Gift Boxes.

Valuable work had been done and many hours spent by the Depot managers. Home and overseas' needs increase yearly, and Depot managers welcome monetary gifts with which they purchase to advantage the necessary articles to complete the packing of boxes.

### Devotional Periods and Addresses.

The morning half-hour's devotions were times of spiritual refreshment. Lack of space compels us to make brief mention of the home sisters' talks and those of Sister Edna both at Conference, and at the exceedingly large public evening meeting. We welcomed them all for their own and their works' sake, and our hearts warmed afresh toward them as we learned of what they had achieved on our behalf among our native people.

—G.M.R.

## New Issue—Solomon Island Stamps.

The new issue of Solomon Islands stamps advertised below and in the "Methodist Times" has been delayed. The Rev. A. H. Voyce requests us to announce that orders and cash have been received safely and that the stamps on the Souvenir covers will be forwarded immediately after the stamps are issued.

### MAINTAIN THE DOCTOR!

STAMP COLLECTORS—LOOK!

British Solomon Island New Pictorial Issue.



Rev. B. GINA.

Methodist Foreign Missionary  
Society

Send the Doctor Back!



Rev. A. E. Waite,  
The Parsonage,  
Dannevirke,  
New Zealand.

#### SOUVENIR ENVELOPES OF GINA.

Arrangements have been made to have 2,000 covers, each bearing 3 different stamps of the very fine New Pictorial issue of Solomon Islands, posted on the First Day of Issue. These will be sold for the "Maintain the Doctor" fund as under:—

1/6 per envelope.

15/- .. dozen envelopes.

Remittances in N.Z. Bank Notes or Postal Notes. Postage 2d. extra on orders less than 10/-.

Envelopes will be posted from New Guinea, under separate cover, and New Guinea Air Mail Stamps will be used. Terms: Cash with order.

Write:— **REV. A. H. VOYCE,**  
Kieta,  
Bougainville,  
TERRITORY OF NEW GUINEA.

(Please use N.Z. Air Mail Stamps on all letters.)

# The Open Door

The Missionary Organ  
of the  
Methodist Church  
of N.Z.

MARCH, 1939.



Rev. A. W. SILVESTER, Foreign Mission  
Deputation from the Solomons.

"A Great Door & Effectual is opened unto us"

ST. PAUL